



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

16 OCTOBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – FBI Investigating Reports of Man in Jetpack Above Los Angeles International Airport

(U) The FBI is investigating two separate reports of a person seen flying a jetpack over Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The peculiar sighting was reported on Wednesday for the second time in two months. A China Airlines crew member reported seeing someone flying a jetpack at an altitude of 6,000 feet, around seven miles northwest of the airport at 1.45pm on Wednesday, the Federal Aviation Administration said. The FBI is investigating both the incident on Wednesday and another that occurred on 29 August.

SOURCE: 15 October 2020, [Independent](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – US CBP Agents Discover 111 Undocumented Immigrants in 4 Stash Houses

(U) Donna – On Tuesday, US Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents working with local and federal agencies disrupted four stash houses in the Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector, which led to the discovery of 111 undocumented immigrants, a news release said Wednesday. RGV Sector agents received information of two residences in Donna operating as human smuggling stash houses. Sixty-one undocumented immigrants from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico were removed from the first residence, and seven undocumented immigrants from Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and El Salvador were arrested in the second. RGV Sector also discovered 13 undocumented immigrants from Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico in Pharr and 30 undocumented immigrants in Edinburg.

SOURCE: 15 October 2020, [KVEO](#)

(U) Texas – US CBP Intercept More Than \$3.2 Million in Narcotics

(U) Laredo – US CBP intercepted methamphetamine and cocaine with a combined estimated street value exceeding \$3.2 million in three separate enforcement operations over the weekend. All seizures took place at the World Trade Bridge when two vehicles and one tractor were referred for secondary inspections. A total of 174-pounds of alleged crystal meth was discovered in the first seizure, 15 packages containing 37-pounds of alleged cocaine in the second, and 30 packages containing 74-pounds of alleged cocaine were discovered within a tractor in the third. The narcotics combined have an estimated street value of \$3,293,205.

SOURCE: 15 October 2020, [CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Colorado – White Supremacist Pleads Guilty for Plot to Blow Up Colorado Synagogue

(U) Denver – A self-described white supremacist pleaded guilty on Thursday to federal hate crime and explosive charges for a botched plot to blow up a historic Colorado synagogue last year, prosecutors said. Richard Holzer, 28, who was arrested in November 2019 following an undercover FBI sting, admitted to planning to bomb the Temple Emanuel synagogue in Pueblo, Colorado. Holzer, who lived in Pueblo, pleaded guilty to one count of attempting to obstruct religious services by force, and to one

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count of trying to destroy a building used in interstate commerce.

SOURCE: 15 October 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) District of Columbia – US Charges Six Chinese Nationals for Laundering Funds for Mexican Cartels

(U) Washington – Six Chinese nationals have been charged by US authorities with conspiring to distribute cocaine and laundering the illicit funds for Mexican drug cartels, according to court documents. All of the suspects have been taken into custody except for one. The suspects made at least \$30 million in an alleged scheme that continued from 2008 to late last month and involved funneling illicit drug money to traffickers in Latin America, including the Sinaloa cartel. Federal prosecutors allege that the men laundered their drug proceeds by purchasing products in the US and shipping them to China.

SOURCE: 16 October 2020, [NBC News](#)

(U) Michigan – Another Suspect Charged in Alleged Michigan Kidnap Plot

(U) Lansing – Michigan's attorney general has filed charges against an eighth person in what authorities have described as a scheme to storm Michigan's Capitol building and kidnap officials, including Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Seven men purportedly linked to a paramilitary group called the Wolverine Watchmen were charged in state court last week with providing material support for terrorist acts and possession of a firearm while committing a felony. Federal charges were filed against six others in the alleged conspiracy to kidnap Whitmer. The suspects had planned and trained for an operation to attack the Capitol in Lansing and had threatened violence in hopes of igniting a civil war.

SOURCE: 15 October 2020, [AP](#)

(U) Pennsylvania – US DOJ Announces Charges Against 14 Members of QQAAZZ

(U) Pittsburgh – Fourteen members of the transnational criminal organization, QQAAZZ, were charged by a federal grand jury in an indictment unsealed on Thursday. The QQAAZZ members, acting in concert with cybercriminals across the world, are accused of conspiring to launder money stolen from victims of computer fraud in the US and elsewhere. More than 40 house searches were conducted in Latvia, Bulgaria, the UK, Spain and Italy, with criminal prosecutions initiated in the US, Portugal, Spain and the UK. The largest number of searches and arrests were carried out in Latvia, and an extensive bitcoin mining operation associated with QQAAZZ was seized in Bulgaria.

SOURCE: 15 October 2020, [US DOJ](#)

(U) Texas – 24 Indicted in Probe of White Supremacist Prison Gang

(U) Houston – Twenty-four people, including alleged members of a white supremacist prison gang, have been indicted in federal courts in Texas, Kentucky, and Mississippi on charges related to shootings, stabbings and killings, according to authorities. Indictments unsealed on Wednesday allege that members of the Aryan Circle committed various crimes in at least 11 states, including Texas, Arkansas, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The defendants face charges of racketeering conspiracy, violent crimes in the aid of racketeering, drug conspiracy and unlawful firearms trafficking. All but one is in custody.

SOURCE: 15 October 2020, [AP](#)

(U) Washington – One in Custody After Fire Set to Seattle Police Car with Officer Inside

(U) Seattle – One person is in custody after allegedly setting a police car on fire while an officer was inside on Thursday, according to the Seattle Police Department. According to a blotter post, an officer was in their patrol car in an alley around 1:30 p.m. looking for a man reportedly brandishing a flaming piece of wood, and when encountered, the man threw the flaming piece of wood into the car while the officer was inside. Additional officers responded and chased the man into a parking garage where he was taken into custody. The post also said that one officer is believed to have shot a firearm during the

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incident, but no one was hit.

SOURCE: 15 October 2020, [KIRO7](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) France – Algerian Sentenced to 28 Years for Notre Dame Attack on Police

(U) Paris – A Paris court jailed an Algerian man for 28 years after convicting him of attempted terrorist murder for attacking police guarding Notre Dame Cathedral with a hammer in 2017, exclaiming “This is for Syria!” The assault by Farid Ikken, 43, outside one of France’s most-visited monuments came after a string of Islamic extremist attacks around France in 2015-2016 and was among multiple violent acts targeting security forces. In the Notre Dame incident, one police officer was slightly injured, and Ikken was shot and wounded by officers. At least 600 people were trapped inside the cathedral while police secured the surrounding streets and combed the pews.

SOURCE: 14 October 2020, [AP](#)

(U) Germany – Cologne Police Arrest German Man Suspected of Attempting to Recruit for ISIS

(U) Cologne – Police in western Germany have arrested an 18-year-old man on the suspicion that he tried to recruit people to join the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) militant group. Cologne police said the German man was detained early Thursday. Police say he is alleged "in several cases" to have urged people to join or support ISIS. German news agency Deutsche Presse-Agentur reported that evidence against the suspect included online chat transcripts.

SOURCE: 15 October 2020, [AP](#)

(U) Syria – US Drone Strike Reportedly Kills Two Senior Al-Qa’ida Operatives in Idlib

(U) Idlib – The US military carried out a drone strike Thursday, killing two senior Al-Qa’ida operatives in northwest Syria. "US forces conducted a strike against Al-Qa’ida in the vicinity of Idlib, Syria, Thursday. AQ-S continues to present a threat to America and our allies," a spokesman for US Central Command said in a statement. Officials say the strike was carried out by the US military's Joint Special Operations Command.

SOURCE: 16 October 2020, [Fox News](#)

(U) Turkey – Turkey Arrests 15 ISIS Members in Istanbul, Adana

(U) Istanbul – Fourteen people accused of belonging to ISIS have been arrested this Friday in Istanbul, while another suspect wanted by French authorities and Interpol was arrested in the city of Adana on Wednesday. In the Istanbul operation, the prosecutor's office issued an arrest warrant for 17 people, whose identity has not been disclosed, although three of the detainees are Turks. \$62,000 was seized, as well as mobile phones, passports, and digital documents. The other ISIS suspect wanted by France with an Interpol Red Notice was arrested in Adana. The Tunisian national was wanted by French authorities and identified as "dangerous." Sources also said that the suspect was found to possess a fake Syrian identification card.

SOURCE: 16 October 2020, [EFE](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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